REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 23-30, 33-44, and 47-50 were pending in this application. Claim 23 and 37 have been amended hereby to more clearly recite features of the present invention, and claim 25 has been amended to place it in better form. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and drawings. For at least the reasons stated below, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action mailed April 10, 2006, claims 23-30, 33-44, and 47-50 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Munson (U.S. Patent No. 6,681,331) In view of Botros et al. (U.S. Patent 6,769,066). To the extent this rejection might still be applied to claims presently pending in this application, it is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended the independent claims pending herein to include the requirement that a "string distance metric" be employed for <u>preprocessing</u> inputs during learning. The amended claims expressly recite that a string distance metric is <u>other than string matching</u> and is based on events common to two strings and/or the difference in positions of common events, and is used to measure the distance from an input string to each of several exemplar strings. Support for this amendment can be found in the text surrounding, for example, page 17, line 10, and page 9, line 5 of the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Munson nor Botros discloses or suggests the string distance metric limitation now recited in the claims, let alone a string distance metric that

is employed for preprocessing inputs and that is other than string matching. While Munson does

disclose the operation of an "execution profile comparator" at col. 4, lines 26-65, this passage

does not render obvious or anticipate the precise string distance metric requirement of the

amended claims. Botros does not overcome this deficiency of Munson.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in this

application are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or

determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for

issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the
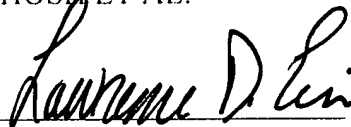
number listed below.

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                                          GHOSH ET AL.

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